

News from the Illinois Commerce Commission

Voice: Springfield. 217.782.5793 Chicago. 312.814.2850 FAX 217.524.0674 BBS 217.782.9233 <http://www.icc.illinois.gov>

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Contact: Brian Sterling
Phone: (312) 814-6653

ICC approves \$9.8 million railroad bridge project in Rockford

The Illinois Commerce Commission has approved plans for a major public safety improvement project involving reconstruction of two bridges that carry Harrison Avenue over the Union Pacific Railroad Company's track and the Chicago, Central and Pacific Railroad's track in the City of Rockford.

One bridge, which carries westbound Harrison Avenue over the tracks, was originally constructed in 1971. The other structure, constructed in 1955, carries eastbound Harrison Avenue over the tracks. Both bridge structures are old, deteriorated concrete and steel structures, and do not meet National Bridge Inspection Standards.

The total estimated cost of the project is \$9,815,000. The Grade Crossing Protection Fund (GCPF) will be used to pay \$5,040,000 toward eligible costs for the project. The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), utilizing federal funds, will pay \$3,907,000. All remaining project costs, estimated at \$868,000, will be paid by the City of Rockford, which initially requested the project.

The project is expected to be completed by January 24, 2009. Upon completion, the City of Rockford will assume ownership of the new structures, and be responsible for all future maintenance.

ABOUT THE GRADE CROSSING PROTECTION FUND (GCPF)

Project selection and management of GCPF highway-rail safety projects include safety improvements such as the installation of new warning systems, highway approach improvements and the construction/reconstruction of grade separation structures. The Commission administers the GCPF, which is funded by motor fuel tax money designated for rail safety improvements. The General Assembly appropriates \$27 million annually for GCPF projects.

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